



Checking Water Service Pipes for Lead

Following is a procedure that customers can follow to check if the private side of their water service pipe is made of lead:

1. At a point on the customer's side of the water meter, expose the pipe (if buried) and wipe it clean. The pipe may be accessible in a basement, crawlspace, or a garage where it enters the building.
2. If the pipe is metal, scrape a small area of the pipe with a penny or a flat-head screwdriver to reveal the material.
 - a. If it is shiny and silver, it is likely lead.
 - b. If it is warmer and golden in color, it is likely copper or brass.
3. Use a magnet.
 - a. If the magnet does not stick and the pipe is shiny and silver, the pipe is lead.
 - b. If the magnet does not stick and the pipe is golden in color, the pipe is copper or brass.
 - c. If the magnet does stick, and the pipe is dull silver in color, it is galvanized steel.
4. If the pipe is white, gray, blue, or black and the piping is joined with a clamp, screw, or glue, this portion of the service line is plastic.